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RURAL DISTRICT  
OF  
MALMESBURY

1955



RURAL DISTRICT

of

MALMESBURY.

T H E

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

and

S E N I O R   S A N I T A R Y   I N S P E C T O R

for the

Y E A R   E N D I N G

31st. DECEMBER

- 1 9 5 5 -



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

R.S. Pierce, Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Other Food Inspector's Cert.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

D.G. Davies, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Meat & Other Food Inspector's Cert.



TO:- The Chairman & members,  
Malmesbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1955.

Vital Statistics and the incidence of Infectious Disease, with comments thereon, will be found in subsequent pages of this report.

Apart from an outbreak of Measles during the early part of the year amongst children living in the Sherston and Brinkworth area, the health of the community was satisfactory during the year.

The following notes on general health with present tendencies will be of interest to the Council. The principal causes of adult mortality are vascular lesions of the nervous system, coronary disease and cancer. Lung cancer, especially in the male, has occasioned much investigation and comment in both the medical and national press.

The death rate of infants under one year has been nearly halved in less than 20 years. Further reduction will require intensive investigation into the causes of prematurity and congenital malformations.

The population is growing more elderly, due principally to the increase in the proportion of those aged 65 years and over. Elderly women are substantially more numerous than men.

Immunisation against the major infectious diseases still requires emphasis. The Minister of Health, in his report for the year 1954 states that only 34.5% of live births are vaccinated against Smallpox. Modern technique in the control of smallpox relies on early diagnosis and isolation, combined with vaccination of all persons known to be contacts. Present day air travel brings the population into close temporal relationship with parts of the world in which smallpox is still endemic. For adequate protection of the population, at least 75% of infants should be vaccinated.

The decreasing incidence and low mortality of Diphtheria should not be viewed with complacency. The only safeguard against a return of Diphtheria is the maintenance of a high level of immunisation.

The severity of measles has declined in recent years. The early infectiousness makes application of preventive measures practically useless. The complications of measles may be dangerous, especially in early life.

Although the number of notified cases of Bacillary Dysentery tends to increase, the severity of the illness is fortunately not great. Infection is rarely conveyed by food, direct or indirect personal contact is mainly responsible. Three quarters of notifications relate to children under 15 years of age; those of 4 and under are especially liable to infection. Like other communicable infections of the intestinal tract, Dysentery has an underground organisation of symptomless excretors only discovered during the bacteriological investigation of an outbreak. Prevention is simple, cleanliness of body and clothing, scrupulous personal hygiene and above all washing of hands after a visit to the toilet.



The made up dish is the principal cause of food poisoning, due to the usual lapse of time between its preparation and eventual consumption. Prompt attention to minor injuries and infections on the hands of food handlers and strict attention to their cleanliness will prevent most outbreaks.

During the last six years, the mortality from Tuberculosis has fallen by 64%; nevertheless the decline in the number of notifications of respiratory tuberculosis has not been so great. Tuberculosis is still a serious problem, as more cases come to be known and more patients, due to improved methods of treatment, survive to constitute a reservoir and a source of infection.

Whooping Cough principally affects children under school age when it can be a dangerous disease. Girls are more commonly affected than boys.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis has commenced during the preparation of this report and it is hoped that this preventive measure will become a regular feature in future.

There is a tendency for accidents in the home to increase. Most fatal domestic accidents occur at the two extremes of life; 73% are at ages 65 and over.

Statistics supplied by the National Blood Transfusion Service confirm that one public session, at which 63 donors attended was held in Malmesbury. During the year, the use of blood increased by 2000 in S.W. England. Recent work on the treatment of severe post-partum haemorrhage by massive transfusion is likely to call for further increases. The public can be assured that giving of blood has no ill-effect on any normally healthy person.

The positive good health enjoyed by the population nowadays is taken for granted, and it is not sufficiently realised that this is in part due to the health legislation of the last hundred years. During this period the population has almost doubled and the more serious infectious diseases have become practically non existent. Nevertheless it should be appreciated that a healthy environment for all classes of the community can only be maintained and improved by constant vigilance.

I am grateful to Mr. Pierce and the staff of the Council for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD.



## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) . . . . .	.58,135
Population . . . . .	.10,320.
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1955 according to the Rate Book). . .	.2,894
Rateable Value . . . . .	£56,211.
Sum represented by Penny Rate. . . . .	£228.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	102	111	213
Illegitimate	-	5	5
Total live births	102	116	218

Crude Birth Rate for the District . . . . . 21.1 per 1000  
of the population

Adjusted Birth Rate for the District . . . . . 21.7 per 1000  
of the population.

Birth Rate for England & Wales . . . . . 15.0 per 1000  
of the population.

The population figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Birth Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Birth Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (1.03). The Birth Rates shown above represent an increase as compared with the figures for 1954 which were as follows:-

Adjusted Birth Rate for the District . . . 18.9 per  
1000 of the population  
Rate for England & Wales . . . . . 15.2 "

## STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL STILL BIRTHS	2	3	5

Rate per 1000 total live & still births . . . . . 22.4

The rate for this year is slightly lower than that for 1954 which was 25.7 per 1000 total live & still births.



DEATHS.

	Male	Female	Total
	38	41	79
Crude Death Rate for the District . . . . .			7.6 per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted Death Rate for the District . . . . .			7.2.
Comparative Rate for England & Wales . . . . .			11.7 per 1000 of the population

The population figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Death Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Death Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (0.95). The rates given below, which apply to the year 1954, show a slight decrease in the Death Rate for 1955 by comparison.

Adjusted Death Rate. . . . . 7.6  
Rate for England & Wales : : 11.3

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic dis.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant " , Lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant " , Breast	-	1	1
Malignant " , uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	5	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous sys.	9	7	16
Coronary disease, angina	7	7	14
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart disease	5	5	10
Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory sys.	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined dis.	3	4	7
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES.</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>79</b>



## INFANT MORTALITY.

Table 'A'

### **Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-**

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	1	1	2

### **Infant Mortality Rate:-**

Rate for England & Wales per 1000 related live births . . . . . 24.9

Table 'B'

**Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-**

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	1	-	1

The figures shown in Table 'B' have already been included in Table 'A' above.



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the infectious diseases notified during 1955 as compared with 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954.

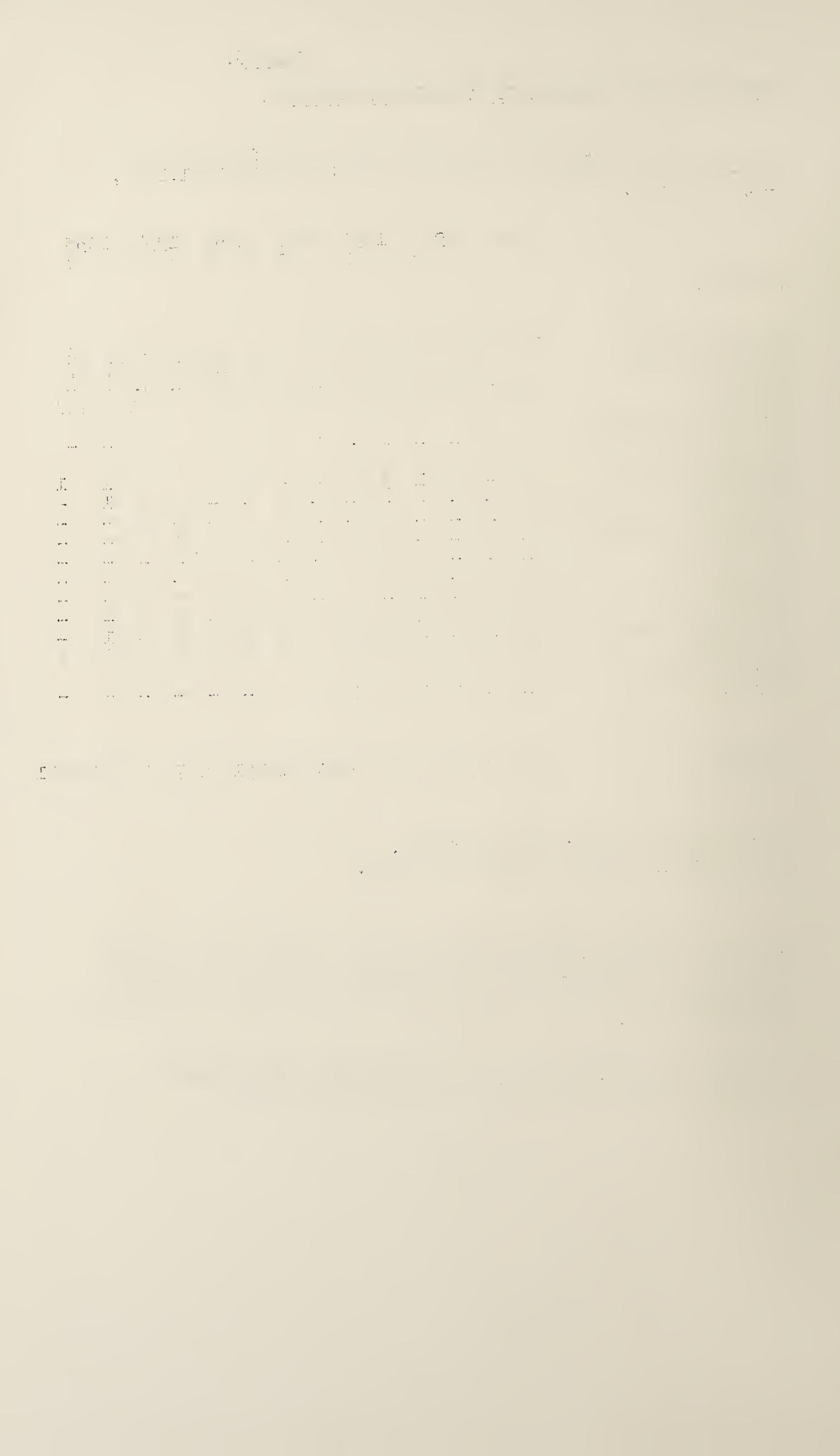
DISEASE.	1949 a b	1950 a b	1951 a b	1952 a b	1953 a b	1954 a b	1955 a b								
Scarlet Fever	13	13	12	12	20	20	12	12	2	2	1	1	6	5	
Whooping Cough	6	6	22	22	31	31	11	11	15	15	57	57	37	37	
Diphtheria	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Measles	61	61	47	47	66	66	101	101	25	25	6	6	180	180	
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	3	1	5	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Para Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelas	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	59	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Pneumonia	5	5	4	4	2	2	1	1	3	3	4	4	8	8	
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS:-	87	87	93	88	184	181	112	81	275	1	49	72	70	234	231

"a" = Numbers originally notified.

"b" = Final numbers after correction.

Compared with previous years, a numerical increase in the incidence of Infectious Disease occurred during 1955. This was principally due to an outbreak of Measles during April and May amongst children living in the area of Sherston and Brinkworth.

The single case of Poliomyelitis notified was confirmed as non-paralytic. The patient made a good recovery, and no secondary cases were discovered.



New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year show a slight decrease as compared with 1954.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING.

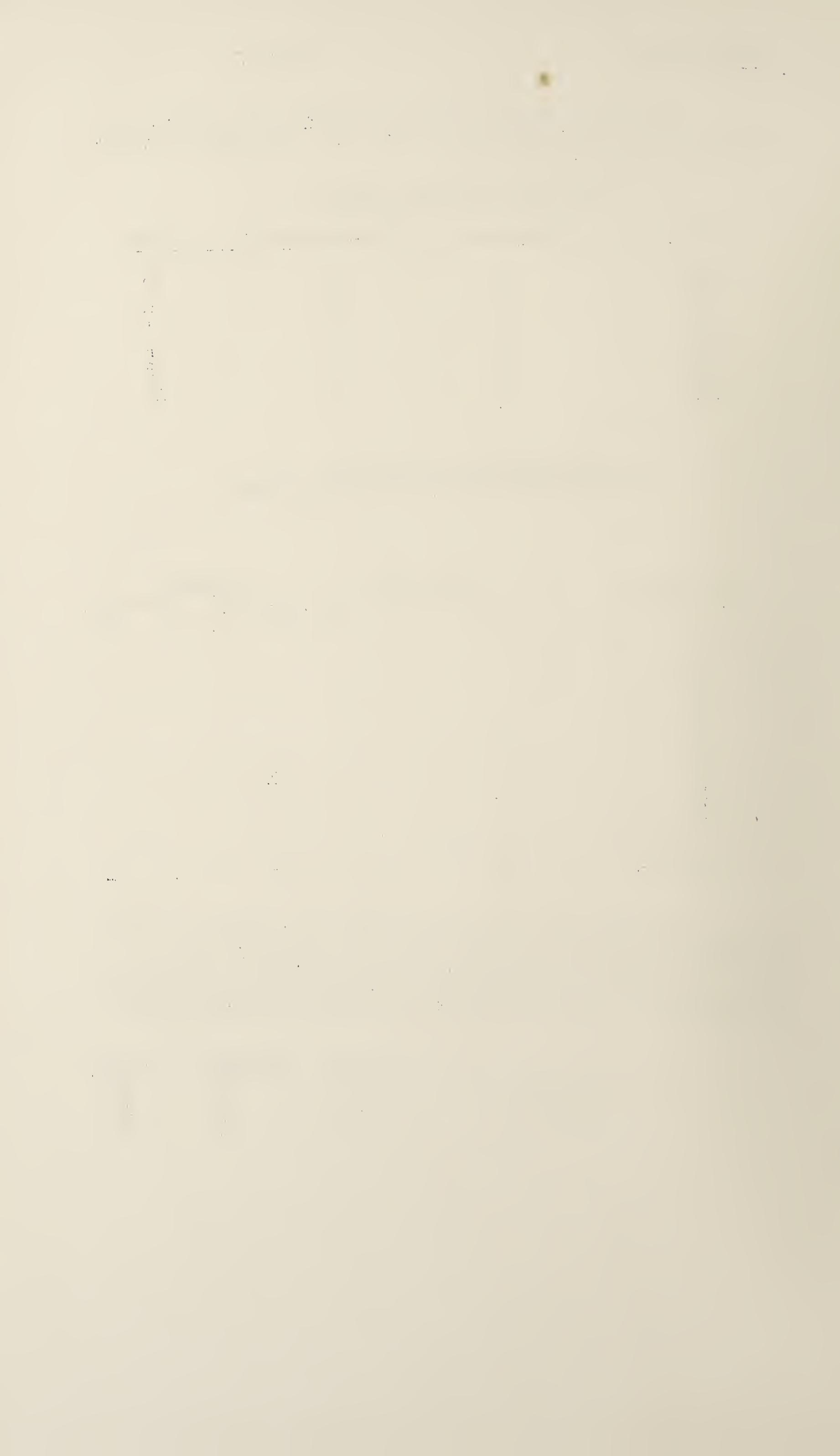
YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948		1	6
1949	5	-	3
1950	3	4	7
1951	6	-	6
1952	3	2	5
1953	8	-	8
1954	7	4	11
1955	5	-	5

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY  
DURING 1955 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Resp. M.	Non-Resp. F.	M.	F.	Resp. M.	Non-Resp. F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
15		3						
25		1						
35						1		
45		1						
55								
65 upwards.								
TOTALS:-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

It should be noted however that in addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the district or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following cases were resident in the Rural District at the end of 1955.

	Males	Females	Total.
Pulmonary	24	22	46
Non-Pulmonary	11	5	16
TOTALS	35	27	62



MILK

On the instructions of the Public Health Committee of the 11th May, 1955, a report on the Hygienic Control of Milk Supply and Milk Sampling, was submitted. The subject of milk sampling and control was previously discussed by the Public Health Committee on the 13th April following receipt of a circular letter dated 17th March, 1955 from the Clerk to the County Council on milk sampling. To assist the Council some notes on the legislation pertaining were considered necessary.

Milk, by its very nature, is an excellent medium for the growth of harmful microbes and to safeguard the health of the community, regular and adequate sampling for biological examination and statutory chemical tests is necessary. Regular inspection of farms and dairies and production methods are equally important and fundamental in the production of clean milk. There is no statutory obligation to take milk samples for biological examination, but the information yielded by such examinations is invaluable to the District Medical Officer of Health, especially with regard to Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The Local District Authority has definite obligations to prevent the spread of infectious disease and requires to be satisfied that the milk consumed by the public within its area is safe and complies with the statutory tests during its distribution. The Local District Authority only can take legal action when milk sampled in course of distribution within its area fails to comply with the statutory tests.

It is obvious that regular and frequent milk sampling for statutory and biological examinations is necessary throughout the whole process of production and distribution irrespective of designation, and the responsibility, in my opinion is shared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Wilts. County Council, as a Food & Drugs Authority, and the Local District Authority.

It is clear that close co-operation between all concerned in the supervision of milk production and distribution is essential and it is unfortunate that the present legislation leads to some divergence of opinion as to responsibilities. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that the Council shares a responsibility for sampling designated and non-designated milk from Producer Retailers and Distributors within its boundary.



LEGISLATION.

During 1955 the following were issued by the various Ministries of the Central Government. The most important being the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. The latter was laid before Parliament on the 21st. December, 1955 and came into operation on the 1st. January, 1956.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955.

The Transfer of Functions (Food & Drugs) Order, 1955.

The Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 replace Sec. 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 and add a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles etc. where food is handled.

The regulations lay down requirements regarding the cleanliness of food premises and stalls etc. and of apparatus and equipment; the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing.

Persons suffering from or being carriers of certain infections will receive special supervision from the Public Health Department.

The administration of this particular legislation will entail increased sanitary supervision.

The National Assistance Act, 1948

Sec. 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It was not found necessary during the year to effect statutory removals to hospital under this legislation.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following children received primary immunisations during 1955:-

Under 1 year...57; Ages 1-4...67; Ages 5-14...29  
TOTAL...153.

Total immunised child population as at 31.XII.55...

Ages 0-4...478. Ages 5-14....1434 TOTAL... 1912

VACCINATION.

The following children were vaccinated during 1955

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-15</u>
---------------------	-----------------	------------------

78

13

6

TOTAL... 97.



During the year the various Undertakings serving the Rural District were subject to frequent bacteriological examination. Departures from the normal were investigated and appropriate action taken to safeguard the supply. A summary of inspections carried out during the year is given in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report annexed.

### EXISTING SUPPLIES.

#### (a) From Sources maintained by the Council.

1. OAKSEY. - Water is raised from a Borehole and the supply is chlorinated before distribution to the consumer. Regular bacteriological examinations have been carried out. The results were satisfactory with the exception of one sample taken of the treated water on the 29th. June which was reported by the Bacteriologist as showing slight pollution with non-faecal coli and a further sample of the treated water taken on the 13th. September also reported by the Bacteriologist as showing a moderate degree of pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms.
2. CRUDWELL - The following report was submitted to the Public Health Committee on the 18th. November. "Routine samples of water from this source have been reported by the Bacteriologist as showing varying degrees of non-faecal and faecal pollution. A sample taken on the 12th. September was reported as showing heavy pollution with non-faecal coliform bacilli.

I inspected the Works on the 1st. November with the Water Manager and arrangements were made for the chlorine dose to be increased and also that facilities be made for future chemical analysis of the water.

Concerning paragraph 14 of the list of Capital Works in Progress or Contemplated (Water Supply) where it is proposed to defer the extension of the main to Crudwell, I recommend that consideration be given to the inclusion of this village in the main extension".

3. HULLAVINGTON.- Bacteriological examinations of the raw and treated water in supply were, on the whole, satisfactory.

A 4" diameter main was laid from Corston to Hullavington during the year and the parish was supplied from the Corston source in September. Pumping from the borehole was discontinued.

4. CORSTON - The following are extracts from a report submitted to the Public Health Committee on the 14th. June.  
"1st. June, 1955 Taken during Test Pumping 14th. day at 9.30 a.m. Lab. ref. 7404

Appearance: Clear and colourless. No smell.

Reaction pH 7.22

Parts per million.

Free Carbon Dioxide CO <sub>2</sub>	42
Free and saline ammonia	0.02
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.02
Chlorine (as chlorides)	14.
equivalent to sodium chloride	23.



## 4 CORSTON (Continued)

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs)	0.16
Nitrite	Very slight reaction
Nitrogen in Nitrate	0.60
Total solids	420
Loss on ignition	19
Appearance on ignition	No charring
Hardness : temporary	273
permanent	48
Total	321
Lead and copper	Absent

Analyst's opinion dated 3rd. June, 1955.

"I am sending the results of the analysis after 14 days. There is no material change and the water may be regarded as very satisfactory."

Summary by Analyst dated 6th. June, 1955.

"The changes in this water during pumping have been small and not very significant. It is extremely satisfactory to me that the third sample is clear and colourless, as I have another borehole in this area which has been in use for many months, and is still sending up a cloudy water with much sediment. A clear water is so much more satisfactory from the point of view of chlorination."

"It is also rather gratifying that the albuminoid ammonia and nitrate show a small but significant decrease in the third sample."

"I am of the opinion that provided satisfactory bacteriological results are obtained, or can be reproduced by chlorination, this is an excellent supply. It is of course hard, but not more so than most waters in this area and in any case this has no effect on its wholesomeness"

"The bacteriological examinations were reasonably satisfactory; samples taken on the 25th, 26th, and 27th. May and 1st. June showing no coliform or faecal coli."

"In my opinion the chemical and bacteriological examinations have shown that the water obtained from the new bore is an improvement on that obtained from the original installations and provided the chemical characteristics remain constant, should not present the same difficulties in chlorination"

Frequent bacteriological examinations of the water in supply confirmed the quality to be satisfactory with only four exceptions. These four samples were reported by the bacteriologist as showing pollution ranging from very small to gross non-faecal coliform.

Supplies in bulk from Other Authorities.

1. From Cricklade and Wootton Bassett R.D.C. to:-

Brinkworth and Minety only.

2. Malmesbury Borough Council to parts of St. Paul (Wt)

Areas supplied in detail by the West Gloucestershire Water Coy.

Luckington, Sopworth, Parts of Norton and Foxley and the whole of the Parish of Sherston.



WATER SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)(d) PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

1. CHELWORTH - This is a small undertaking which supplies farms and cottages in the North of Crudwell Parish.
2. CHARLTON. - The Charlton Estate provides a supply to Charlton Park and the Home Farm with a Standpipe supply to Charlton Village. During the year the supply was closely supervised and a total of sixty two samples taken at the Spring Basin and at various points of supply were sent off for bacteriological examination. Forty samples were reported by the Bacteriologist as showing no evidence of pollution; eighteen samples confirmed a very slight degree of pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms; three samples were reported as showing a moderate degree of pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms and only one sample confirmed the presence of both faecal and non-faecal coliform organisms in minimal amounts.  
The supply is not chlorinated.
3. BROKENBOROUGH. - This is a small undertaking giving a standpipe supply in the village to 28 cottages and two farms. During the year fifteen samples of the treated water in supply were sent for bacteriological examination. Eight samples were reported as showing no evidence of pollution; 4 samples showed very small numbers of non-faecal coliform organisms; two samples were moderately polluted with non-faecal coliforms organisms, and one sample was grossly polluted with non-faecal coliform organisms. A small drip feed chlorinator is installed.
4. EASTON GREY. - The village is supplied by a small private estate supply.

The following information concerning water supplies has been supplied to me by Mr. Campbell, the Council's Water Manager.

Mainlaying Contract No.6. - During the year mainlaying was completed in the parishes of Brinkworth, Charlton, Lea and Cleverton and St. Paul, Malmesbury Without. The 6" rising main (Contract 6b) was completed from Charlton Spring to Whychurch Tower.

Whychurch Water Tower. - The tower was completed during the early summer and it has been possible for the Council's section to be used as a balancing tower through the mains with Rodbourne Tower.

In spite of the very dry Summer with increased demands on the Council's sources of supply, no shortage was experienced at any of the sources.



Water Supply Statistics.

Suppliers.	No. of houses in District.	No. with piped supplies.	% of total supplied.	Population supplied	Farms
	3222	2439	75.7	8374	375
Piped Water Supply by R.D.C.		920	28.55	3220	
Cricklade & Wootton Bassett	488		15.15	1780	
Malmesbury Borough	314		9.76	1099	
West Glos. Water Coy.	529		16.42	1851	
Air Ministry	162		5.02	333	
Private Supplies	26		.80	91	
	3222	2439	75.70	8374	375
% of Farms Supplied :-	38.8				
<u>Without Piped Supply</u>		783	24.3	1946	
<u>Percentage of Population Supplied</u>			81.14%		
<u>Total Water Supplied.</u>					
Malmesbury R.D.C. own sources			40,650,000		
Bulk Supplies			43,600,000		
West Glos. Water Co.			19,000,000		
Private Sources			6,000,000		
<u>Total Water consumed per annum in district</u>			<hr/> 109,250,000		



WATER SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)Statistics (continued)Water Supplied to whole of Rural District.

Domestic Purposes - Consumption per head per day	24.00 gals.
Agricultural purposes - Average consumption per farm per day	312.30 gals.
Manufacturing purposes - Average consumption per day	<u>9.400 gals.</u> <u>345.700 gals.</u>

Mainlaying.

Length of mains laid during year.	6.13 miles.
Laid previously	<u>62.78 miles.</u>
TOTAL:-	<u>68.91.</u>

Parish	No. of hses. in parish.	No. of hses directly supplied.	Population supplied.	Private supplies by Standpipe.
Brinkworth	309	274	931	-
Brokenborough	134	69	234	30
Charlton	196	29	98	27
Crudwell	207	118	401	-
Dauntsey	139	126	430	-
Easton Grey	30	26	80	-
Gt. Somerford	171	138	470	-
Hankerton	69	2	7	-
Hullavington	271	246	800	-
Lea & Cleverton	171	124	430	-
Lt. Somerford	87	68	235	-
Luckington	156	121	412	-
Minety	239	214	765	-
Norton	46	37	130	-
Oaksey	118	90	330	-
St. Paul Wt.	448	386	1309	-
Sherston	395	339	1202	-
Sopworth.	36	32	110	-
	<u>3222</u>	<u>2439</u>	<u>8374</u>	<u>57</u>



REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

HOUSING.

The provision of new and improvement of existing houses has continued to be one of the main functions of the department, and progress has been made in improving the standard of accommodation in the District.

57 families have been provided with accommodation in Council Houses during the year.

ERCTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council continued its policy of negotiating tenders for houses subject to variations in abnormalities, rates of wages and costs of basic materials only. This has resulted in comparatively small differences between tenders and actual costs.

The following houses were erected during the year:-

Dauntsey	Holcot	3 bedrooomed	22
Great Somerford	"	3 "	4
" "	"	2 " (bungalows)	6
Hullavington	"	2 "	4
"	"	3 "	4
		Total ...	40

Number of inspections of above houses and sites 272.

MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The greater part of the above work is carried out by direct labour. Four men are employed mainly on this work, which at the end of the year involved the repair and maintenance of the following accommodation:-

Pre-war Council Houses	164
War-time Agricultural Council Houses	8
Post-war Traditional Council Houses	76
Swedish "	6
Airey "	30
Cornish Unit "	87
Holcot "	58
Barley Close Bungalows	14
Exhibition Cottage	1
Day Nursery	4
Charlton Centre	47
Total ...	495

Maintenance includes attention to 29 sewage disposal plants and the periodic emptying of 90 sewage tanks.

The average cost of repair and maintenance of the Council Houses during the year was approximately £8 per house.

Number of inspections of occupied Council Houses 349.

CHARLTON CENTRE AND THE WARTIME DAY NURSERY.

During the year progress was made in the permanent re-housing of families from the above temporary buildings, the number occupied at the end of the year being:-

Charlton Centre	47
Day Nursery	4

The final clearance of this accommodation will depend upon the erection of houses specifically for that purpose.



## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUILDING.

Erection of houses by private enterprise continues steadily, the number completed during the year being 12.

Number in course of erection at end of year 15.

## ADMINISTRATION OF BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number of plans submitted for approval 103.  
Number of plans approved 102.  
Number of inspections in connection therewith 196.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

The Council continued to exercise the powers delegated by the Wilts. County Council with regard to development control.

Number of applications for permission to develop 79.  
Number approved without conditions 28.  
Number approved with conditions 42.  
Number of applications withdrawn 2.  
Number of applications refused 4.  
Number of inspections in connection therewith 129.

## TEMPORARY DWELLINGS.

Number of inspections of caravans etc. 21.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS.

Number of inspections of dwellings for defects under Housing or Public Health Acts 551.  
Number of dwellings found unfit for habitation 70.  
Number of dwellings found to be not in all respects fit 243.  
Number of dwellings repaired by informal action 34.  
Number of cases of statutory action under Housing Acts Nil.  
Number of cases of statutory action under Public Health Acts Nil.  
Number of dwellings rendered fit as a result of statutory action Nil.  
Number of houses demolished 9.  
Number of undertakings completed 2.  
Number of overcrowded dwellings known at end of year Nil.

## HOUSING ACT, 1949 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of applications for grant and of schemes completed, but there are still many cottages which could be given a further useful life by modernisation.

Number of applications for grant 32.  
Number approved by Council 32.  
Number of schemes completed 23.

## WATER.

Samples from the Council's supplies have been regularly submitted for examination, together with occasional samples from private supplies and the necessary action taken thereon.

Number of inspections in connection therewith 319.



## SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are sewers and small obsolete disposal plants at Crudwell, St. Paul Without (Burton Hill) and Sherston, and sewage is discharged without treatment into ditches, water-courses or streams at Brinkworth, Corston, Great Somerford, Hullavington, Lea, Little Somerford, Luckington, Oaksey and Sopworth. The Council have for years undertaken the periodic cleansing of ditches at Brinkworth, Great Somerford, Hullavington and Luckington. It is becoming difficult to obtain labour for such work and the increased flow of drainage consequent upon the installation of piped water supplies makes the problem more acute.

Number of inspections in connection therewith

81.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Household refuse is collected twice-monthly over the whole of the Rural District. The collections are carried out by direct labour (two men are employed full time) and refuse is deposited at four tips, Brinkworth and Hullavington (owned by the Council) Oaksey and Sherston (by arrangement with the owners). Collections generally have given rise to no complaints and no serious difficulty has been experienced at the tips.

In August a new 12 cubic yard side loading Dennis refuse lorry was put into service, the old vehicle being retained as a standby.

The volume of refuse collected continues to increase both by reason of the additional houses in the District and in that householders generally are making much greater use of the service than formerly. In spite of this increase there has been a reduction in the mileage covered in collection and disposal, due to the larger lorry now in use.

There is room for improvement in the type of container used. In many cases refuse is collected from an uncovered bath, bucket, box or other receptacle. A covered fly-proof bin should be considered essential.

Mileage covered by old lorry January - July

6897

Mileage covered by new lorry August - December

4664

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11561.

Number of inspections therewith

60.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The refuse tips have been treated as required for the destruction of rats and sewers shew no serious infestation. Private premises have been treated on request, without charge, as in the past.

Number of properties inspected for infestations

288.

Number of properties found to be infested

41.

Number of premises treated for destruction of rats

41.

Number of visits in connection therewith

405.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

32 visits were made and the necessary action taken following reported cases of infectious disease.

## NUISANCES.

Number of inspections in connection with drainage and drainage disposal

137.



FOOD INSPECTION.

MILK.

Number of Milk Distributors registered  
Number of inspections of premises

8.  
17.

BAKEHOUSES.

5 bakehouses in the District are clean and generally satisfactory.

MEAT.

1 private slaughterhouse is licensed, and there are two butchers shops in the District. All animals slaughtered were inspected.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned  
in whole or in part.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	45	nil	13	46	290	nil
Number inspected	45	nil	13	46	290	nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1	nil	nil	1	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	nil	nil	nil	1	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.3	nil	nil	2.2	0.34	nil
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	nil	nil	nil	2	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.4	nil	nil	nil	0.69	nil
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Generalised and totally condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil



### FRIED FISH SHOPS.

One fried fish shop is registered and is satisfactory.

### ICE-CREAM.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the District and all sold is prepacked.

Number of premises registered for sale

20.

Number of inspections

22.

### FOOD PREMISES.

All premises in the District used for the sale of food are generally in good condition and well maintained.

Number of inspections

79.

### PUBLIC HOUSES.

Most public houses in the District are now provided with adequate sanitary conveniences and washing-up facilities.

The absence of piped water supply and difficulty of drainage disposal has made it necessary to postpone much needed improvements to some houses.

Number of inspections in connection therewith

39.

### STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

All petrol storage installations are satisfactory.

Number of inspections of premises

64.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

During the year the total number of inspections made under the various heads was

2820.





